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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Filing Date:

June 7, 1995

Applicant:

Gary K. Michelson

gw 4.23.97

For:

THREADED FRUSTO-CONICAL
INTERBODY SPINAL FUSION
IMPLANTS

Examiner:

Brown, M.

Art Unit:

3301

Atty's Docket No.:

P-12552

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

This communication is responsive to the Office Action dated September 27, 1996, an unnumbered paper. In that Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 22-24, 46-48, 66-68, 90-92 and 97 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1-11, 13-21, 25-34, 36-45, 49-55, 57-65, 69-78, 80-89 and 93-96 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 4,961,740 issued to Ray et al. on October 9, 1990 in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,349,921 issued to Kuntz on September 21, 1982. Claims 13, 35, 56 and 79 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over the references as applied above to claims 1, 25, 49, 70, respectively, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. Re. 34,871 issued to McGuire et al. on

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